

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 822

By Cobb J

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Howard Leroy Taylor for meritorious service during World War II and applaud his lifetime of astute service as an educator in Tennessee's schools.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans continue this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, Howard Leroy Taylor has served with courage and gallantry and deserves proper recognition for heroism both in the Army and in society today; and

WHEREAS, a native of Bruceton, Mr. Taylor was born on January 24, 1924, and in 1942 he graduated from Central High School, where he played football for four years; and

WHEREAS, after employment with the Milan Arsenal loading 155 millimeter artillery shells, Howard Taylor was drafted into the United States Army on January 26, 1943, at the age of nineteen; and

WHEREAS, excelling throughout his extensive military training across the country in locales such as Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia; the University of Alabama; the University of Connecticut; Camp Grant, Illinois; the 297th General Hospital at Banning, California, and later Fort Dix, New Jersey; and the Beaumont General Hospital, Mr. Taylor served with great bravery and ability as a medic during World War II; and

WHEREAS, stationed with the 297th General Hospital in Kiddminster, England, from June of 1944 until the German surrender in 1945, Howard Taylor nobly assisted in the treatment

of the wounded that had been evacuated from combat zones, helping to save the lives of countless members of this nation's greatest generation that would have otherwise perished; and

WHEREAS, discharged on March 2, 1946, Mr. Taylor earned numerous awards for his distinguished service, including the World War II Victory Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the American Service Medal, and the European, African, and Middle Eastern Service Medal; and

WHEREAS, taking advantage of the GI Bill, Howard Taylor attended the University of Tennessee at Martin from 1946 until 1948 and the University of Tennessee in Knoxville from 1948 until 1950, when he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree. He also obtained teaching certifications in social studies, general science, chemistry, biology, physical education, and health before he attended Peabody College and graduated with a master's degree in School Administration in 1951; and

WHEREAS, in 1951, Mr. Taylor began a long career of public service as a teacher and school administrator: he taught science and coached the football, baseball, boys' basketball, and girls' basketball teams at Rhea Central High School from 1951 until 1957; he served as principal of Rhea County High School from 1957 until 1959; he was a guidance counselor at Soddy Daisy Junior High School from 1960 until 1969; and he served as the Rhea County Schools superintendent from 1969 until his retirement in 1982, during which time he oversaw the construction of two new schools; and

WHEREAS, after his retirement from public education, Howard Taylor obtained an affiliate broker license and sold real estate until 1989, at which time he retired again; and

WHEREAS, a true leader of his community, Mr. Taylor has unswervingly served the Dayton Rotary Club for thirty-five years in various offices, including twenty-three years as the organization's secretary; throughout the last twenty-five years, he has had perfect attendance; and

WHEREAS, he has also distinguished himself as an asset to his community through his membership in the National Education Association at both the local and state levels and his membership in Dayton's American Legion Post 100; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Taylor evinces his devout religious faith as a member of First United Methodist Church, where he has been a member since 1953 and has served on the official

board and in various offices. He recently retired from his post as Sunday school secretary after filling the position for thirty-three years; and

WHEREAS, his many remarkable accomplishments aside, Howard Taylor is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his wife of fifty-five years, the former Edwina Pierce, and his three children, Dr. Kimball Taylor, Randall Taylor, and Janice Phillips; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Taylor performed his military duties with the utmost skill, dedication, and professionalism; his service can only be categorized as outstanding; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure as an educator, Howard Taylor has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order. He epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable neighbor; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Howard Leroy Taylor for meritorious service in the United States Army during World War II and thank him for a difficult job well-done, as we applaud his lifetime of astute service in Tennessee's schools and wish him every continued success in all his future endeavors

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.